RELIGION

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2012-2013

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Changes to schedule – Time changes

RELI 215/4 ~~A~~ BB T. 18:00-20:15
Religions of Asia

RELI 225/2 A W. 18:00-20:15
Introduction to Hinduism

RELI 312/4 A W.F. 10:15-11:30
Justice and Social Conflict in a Globalized World

RELI 398V/4 A M.W. 13:15-14:30
Islamic Art: The Art and Architecture of the Islamic World

RELI 498B/4 AA W. 18:30-20:45
Krishna

Page 2 – Faculty
Addition:

André Gagné, Ph.D. (Université catholique de Louvain/Université de Montréal)
Associate Professor, Cross-Appointed with Theology

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2012-2013

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE
2010-2011

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Images on cover page taken from:
http://www.alignmentsonline.com/GraphicRes/crscent1.jpg
www.kcmetro.cc.mo.us/longview/socsci/philosophy/religion/symbols.htm

This course guide has been prepared months in advance of the 2010-2011 academic year and information contained herein is subject to change. Students are advised not to purchase any texts without the approval of the professor concerned.
Due to the renumbering of courses in the Department, students should consult the list of equivalent undergraduate courses in the back of the 2010-2011 undergraduate calendar.

FACULTY

A list of the full-time faculty follows below. All possess degrees from universities and/or schools of advanced studies that represent the best academic centres for the study of religion in North America and India. All have published books that have made a contribution to their particular fields of study, have published in learned journals and given papers at learned societies. They have also won a reputation among their students for being good teachers, concerned about the quality of instruction at Concordia University, as well as for being "available" and committed to the development of a more meaningful student life.

Full-Time Faculty

Chair
Lorenzo DiTommaso, Ph.D. (McMaster)

Professors
Richard Foltz, Ph.D. (Harvard)
Michael Oppenheim, Ph.D. (University of California)
Ira Robinson, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Associate Professors
Donald Boisvert, Ph.D. (University of Ottawa)
Lynda Clarke, Ph.D. (McGill)
Marc des Jardins (McGill)Ph.D.
Norma Joseph, Ph.D. (Concordia)
Leslie Orr, Ph.D. (McGill)
Norman Ravvin, Ph.D. (Univ. of Toronto) – Chair in Quebec & Canadian Jewish Studies

Assistant Professors
Naftali Cohn, Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania)
Carly Daniel-Hughes Ph.D. (Harvard)
Shaman Hatley, Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania)
Hillary Kaell, Ph.D. (Harvard)
Marc Lalonde, Ph.D. (Concordia)

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

General Objectives

The Department of Religion is dedicated to the academic study of religions and other social and cultural phenomena in so far as they have been influenced or affected by religions. We are interested in the comparative study of many religions. Although we do study how many religious traditions articulate and defend their own self-understandings, we treat these theologies and buddhologies academically and comparatively.

Nature of Religious Studies

The academic study of religion is a multi-disciplinary enterprise. It involves the historical examination of religious movements, the literary analyses of their literatures, philosophical reflections on beliefs and teachings, the social scientific investigations of their rituals, practices, texts, and institutions, the psychological study of their participants and ethical inquiries regarding both their moral writings and social roles.

Correspondingly, the faculty in the department have been trained in a number of academic disciplines including history, sociology, anthropology, literary studies, philosophy, psychology and theology as well as in the study of particular religious traditions.

KNOWLEDGE OF TWO MAJOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

The Department believes that every Major or Honours student in Religion or in Judaic Studies should possess, at time of graduation, a knowledge of at least two major religious traditions. For example, the student who is pursuing a Major in Judaic Studies will take some courses in a religious tradition other than Judaism. This basic principle reinforces the emphasis upon the centrality of the discipline of the History of Religions. A particular religious tradition can best be understood in the context of the general religious history of humankind.

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMMES

The Department of Religion offers at the undergraduate level: minors, majors and honours programmes in Religion and in Judaic Studies. The degree requirements for all of these programmes can be found below. We also offer several graduate programmes: an M.A. in the History and Philosophy of Religion, an M.A. in Judaic Studies, and a Ph.D. in Religion. For further information on our graduate programmes, please contact the graduate programme assistant at 848-2424 ext.2077.

Women and Religion

As part of the Department of Religion's undergraduate curriculum, a concentration in **Women and Religion** is offered. A variety of special courses are included in the regular program for the BA major in Religion. Religion majors can focus on this area for either the primary or secondary concentration requirements.

The study of women and religion is a growing field in which the Department of Religion of Concordia University has long been a leader. This structured concentration solidifies our commitment to this field and enables us to prepare students in a systematic and consistent fashion. The concentration furthers the work of the department in that it will allow students to pursue course work from a comparative, cross-cultural and multi-tradition perspective. The study of the role of women in the history and practice of religion introduces our students to an exciting and vital area of study.

Degree Requirements

60 B.A. Honours in Religion:

12 In a language related to thesis; or in a related discipline such as: Anthropology, Classics, English Literature, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Women's Studies.
6 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3], 215[3]
21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
3 RELI 409[3]
6 RELI 410[6]

42 B.A. Major in Religion

6 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3] or 215[3]
21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
3 RELI 409[3]

24 Minor in Religion

6 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3] or 215[3]
18 RELI elective credits (chosen in consultation with Departmental advisor)

60 B.A. Honours in Judaic Studies

12 Chosen from: HEBR 210[6], HEBR 241[3], HEBR 242[3], RELI 401[3]
Students who demonstrate fluency in Hebrew by a written examination may substitute RELI courses at the 300 and 400 level approved by the departmental adviser.
6 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3], 215[3]
3 RELI 220[3]
9 Chosen from RELI 301[3], 326[3], 327[3], 328[3]
9 Chosen from RELI 329[3],336[3],338[3], 339[3], 381[3], 391[3], 392[3], 395[3], 407[3]
6 Chosen from RELI 223[3], 224[3], 225[3], 226[3], 302[3], 316[3], 318[3], 319[3], 320[3], 321[3], 322[3], 323[3], 324[3], 325[3] or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
3 Chosen from RELI 332[3], 334[3], 335[3] or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
3 RELI elective credits at the 300 or 400 level
3 RELI 409[3]
6 RELI 410[6]

48 B.A. Major in Judaic Studies

12 Chosen from Hebrew Language: HEBR 210[6], HEBR 241[3], HEBR 242[3], RELI 401[3]
Students who demonstrate fluency in Hebrew by a written examination may

substitute RELI courses at the 300 and 400 level approved by the departmental adviser.

6 Chosen from RELI 209[3] ,210[3], 214[3] , 215[3]

3 RELI 220[3]

9 Chosen from RELI 301[3], 326[3], 327[3], 328[3]

9 Chosen from RELI 329[3], 332[3],334[3] , 335[3] ,336[3], 338[3], 339[3] 381[3], 391[3], 392[3], 395[3], 407[3] or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

6 Chosen from RELI 223[3], 224[3], 225[3], 226[3], 302[3], 316[3], 318[3], 319[3], 320[3], 321[3], 322[3], 323[3], 324[3], 325[3] or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

3 RELI 409[3]

24 Minor in Judaic Studies

6 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3 a] , 215[3]

3 RELI 220[3]

6 Chosen from RELI 301[3], 326[3], 327[3], 328[3]

9 RELI elective credits at the 300 or 400 level (chosen in consultation with the departmental advisor)

24 Minor in Iranian Studies

3 RELI 318[3]

3 Chosen from ANTH 323[3] or ANTH credits dealing with the peoples and cultures of Iran or Persia and approved by the departmental advisor

3 Chosen from CLAS 230[3] or HIST 219[3]; HIST 240[3], 241[3], 467[3], POLI 391[3], 395[3]

3 Chosen from RELI 224[3], 316[3], 317[3], 319[3], 383[3], 411[3]

6 Chosen from RELI 412[3], 414[3] or RELI courses dealing with the religions of Iran or Persia

6 Credits chosen from any courses dealing primarily with Iran or the Eurasian regions historically influenced by Iranian and Persian culture and approved by the departmental advisor

NOTE: Any of the courses above may be substituted by an appropriate course approved by the departmental advisor.

Areas of Concentration

A - Asian Religions (21 credits) - chosen from any of the following:

RELI 224[3] Introduction to Islam,
RELI 225[3] Introduction to Hinduism
RELI 226[3] Introduction to Buddhism
RELI 316[3] Medieval Islam
RELI 318[3] Shiite Islam
RELI 319[3] Modern Islam
RELI 340[3] Veda & Upanishads: Fountainhead of Hindu Thought
RELI 341[3] Hindu Sadhana: From Yajna to Yoga
RELI 342[3] The Golden Age of Bhakti
RELI 346[3] From Rammohun Roy to Gandhi and After
RELI 347[3] Religion and the Arts in South & Southeast Asia
RELI 348[3] Religion and Society in South & Southeast Asia
RELI 349[3] Religions of China and Japan
RELI 350[3] Theravada Buddhism
RELI 364[3] Mahayana Buddhism
RELI 383[3] Women and Religion: Islam

RELI 384[3] Women and Religion: Hinduism
RELI 385[3] Women and Religion: Buddhism
RELI 411[3] Studies in Qur'an and Hadith or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

B - Christianity (21 credits)

3 RELI 223[3] Introduction to Christianity

12 Chosen from RELI 301[3] Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible, RELI 302[3] Biblical Studies II: Christian Origins, RELI 320[3] Catacombs, Crusades and Convents: History of Christianity I, RELI 321[3] Mystics, Heretics and Reformers: History of Christianity II, RELI 322[3] From Toleration to Political and Social Activism: History of Christianity III or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

6 Christianity elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

C - Judaism (21 credits)

3 RELI 220[3] Introduction to Judaism

3 RELI 301[3] Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible

6 Chosen from: RELI 326[3] Ancient Judaism, RELI 327[3] Medieval Jewish Thought & Institutions, RELI 328[3] Modern Judaism or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

9 Judaic Studies elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

D - Women and Religion (21 credits)

3 RELI 233[3] Introduction to Women and Religion

6 Chosen from: RELI 381[3] Women and Religion: Judaism
RELI 382[3] Women and Religion: Christianity
RELI 383[3] Women and Religion: Islam
RELI 384[3] Women and Religion: Hinduism
RELI 385[3] Women and Religion: Buddhism
RELI 391[3] Women and Jewish History: Ancient & Medieval
RELI 392[3] Women and Jewish History: Modern or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

9 Chosen from: RELI 372[3] The Human Body in Religious Faith and Practice
RELI 380[3] Sexuality in the History of Religion
RELI 387[3] Goddesses and Religious Images of Women
RELI 389[3] Women's Ritual: Expressions and Expertise
RELI 406[3] Feminist Hermeneutics & Scripture
or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

3 Women and Religion elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

E – Islam (21 credits)

6 Chosen from: RELI 224[3], 316[3], 319[3]

12 Chosen from: RELI 314[3], 315[3], 317[3], 318[3], 348[3], 383[3], 412[3]: from 316 or 319 if not taken to satisfy requirements in first category; from 411 or 416 if not taken to satisfy requirements in third category: or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

3 Chosen from RELI 411 or 416; or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

NOTE: Majors in Religion concentrating in Islam may count up to six credits of Arabic toward the Islam concentration. Honours students concentrating

in Islam must take at least nine credits of Arabic, to be counted in the 12-credit "language related to thesis" category of the Honours program. Honours students may also count an additional six credits of Arabic toward their program.

NOTE: Students who demonstrate fluency in Arabic by a written examination may substitute RELI courses at the 300 and 400 level approved by the departmental advisor.

Southern Asia Studies

The Department of Religion participates with History, Political Science and several other departments in the Southern Asia Studies Programme which offers a major and a minor as follows:

MAJOR (42 credits)

6 credits History 261 and Religion 215

6 credits History 364, 347, 393 or 462 and/or any Special Topics course(s) on Southern Asia in the same Department

3 credits Political Science 336 and/or any Special Topics course(s) on Southern Asia in the same Department,

9 credits Religion 224, 225, 226, 318, 340, 341, 342, 346, 347, 348, 350, 384

NOTE: Any of the above courses may be substituted by a Special Topics course on Southern Asia in the same Department and approved by the departmental advisor.

18 credits Chosen from any relevant courses in the core disciplines, including Special Topics courses (not already counted towards the above requirements) or courses dealing with Southern Asia in the Departments of Economics, Education, English, Geography, Sociology/Anthropology, The Faculty of Fine Arts, and the John Molson School of Business.

MINOR (24 credits)

6 credits History 261 and Religion 215

6 credits History 364, 347, 393 or 462 and/or any Special Topics course(s) on Southern Asia in the same Department

Political Science 336,

Economics 311, 319

6 credits any from Religion 224, 225, 226, 318, 340, 341, 346, 347, 348, 350, 384; or FMST 335

NOTE: Any of the courses above may be substituted by an appropriate course on Southern Asia approved by the departmental advisor.

6 elective credits from any courses dealing primarily with Southern Asia, and Special Topics courses in any discipline with a Southern Asia theme or focus. Other courses may be substituted for many of the above with the Programme Advisor's permission.

Please see the Undergraduate Calendar for further details on the Southern Asia Studies Programme.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Donald Boisvert: dlb@alcor.concordia.ca or Dr. Carly Daniel-Hughes: cdanielhughes@gmail.com

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Student Advising
Students who have questions concerning their programme of study or need assistance relating to academic difficulties can contact the Department either by phone (848-2424, ext. 2065) or email religion@alcor.concordia.ca and make an appointment to meet with an undergraduate advisor.

Undergraduate Listserve
Religion students and students taking one or more Religion courses have the option of being added to the Religion Undergraduate Listserve. This listserve helps to keep students informed of upcoming events, guest speakers and academic deadlines.

Department Web Page
Visit the Department's webpage and find information on the various courses offered, course outlines, faculty research interests, guest lectures and conferences, information on our graduate programmes plus much more:
http://religion.concordia.ca

THE BOYD SINYARD AWARD

Each year the Boyd Sinyard award is given to the outstanding graduating student in Religion. The award is named after the first chairman of the Department of Religion at Sir George Williams University.

CONCORDIA RELIGION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CRSA)

If you are studying within the Department of Religion (i.e. if you are an Honours, Major, Minor or just taking a course offered by the department), you are a member of the CRSA. CRSA is a student-administered organization dedicated to fostering community and expanding the educational experience of all Religion students. Each year the executive branch of CRSA (five students elected to plan and administer CRSA affairs) offers Religion students the chance to meet each other and faculty at various social gatherings, as well as the opportunity to enliven their education by attending CRSA sponsored lectures given by learned academics and religious thinkers from all parts of the world. CRSA members are urged to take advantage of the student lounge located in the basement of annex R (2050 Mackay). This is a place where students can study, hang out or use the free phone. If you would like more information about CRSA, leave a message in our mailbox at the Department of Religion.

COURSES
SUMMER 2012
(April 30 – June 13)

RELI 214/1 - AA (3 credits) H535 M.W. 1200-1430
RELIGIONS OF THE WEST
Instructor: Maria Mamfredi's

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that arose in Western Asia, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course examines contemporary forms of religious life in those parts of the world where these traditions have spread, as well as indigenous religions. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these various traditions. **Note**: Students who have received credit for RELI 213 or RELZ 214 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 397/1 - AA (3 credits) H-557 T.J. 1530-1800
STUDIES IN JEWISH MYSTICISM
SPECIAL TOPIC: KABBALAH
Instructor: Andrea Gondos

In this course we will explore the historical overview of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) and its impact on Christianity and contemporary New Age. We will focus on the unique symbolism in kabbalistic texts; the mystical presentation of Jewish rituals; and the extraordinary charisma of Jewish mystics. Throughout the course, we will pay special attention to the historical and cultural shifts that facilitated the transformation of Kabbalah from an elite inquiry in the Middle Ages to a popular movement in the contemporary post-modern age.

RELI 498T/620E/1 - AA (3 credits) R103 T.J. 1200-1430
ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: RELIGION & SOCIETY IN CONTEMPORARY IRAN
Instructor: Richard Foltz

Heir to one of the world's great civilizations, Iran today is often viewed negatively by the West. However, the reality of life in the Islamic Republic differs in many ways from popular conceptions. This course explores the roots, development and current situation of what is in some ways the world's most modern and dynamic contemporary Muslim society.

COURSES
FALL AND WINTER 2012-2013
(/2 = Fall 2012 /4 = Winter 2013)

RELI 209/2 - A (3 credits) H-535 W.F. 1015-1130
THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION
Instructor: Steven Miriam

This course explores the conceptual, symbolic, and practical elements that constitute, what we can call, "the religious imagination." In general terms, the religious imagination entails the human effort to engage and respond to "reality" in a religious fashion. To be sure, what constitutes "religion" here is both highly variable and extremely complex. Nevertheless, students of religion have learned to identify unique patterns of human life and thought that claim to bear witness to, what is variously called, "the sacred," "the holy," "the ultimate," or "the real." Toward achieving a greater comprehension of the religious imagination at work in this phenomena, this course will examine existing expressions of the sacred, religious belief, religious mythology, religious philosophies, and ritual practice. It is in relation to these facets of "the religious imagination" that we will explore a way of thinking and living that has endured across the centuries and around the world. **Note**: Students who have received credit for RELI 211 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 210/2 – A (3 credits) H-509 T.J. 0845-1000
RELIGION IN PRACTICE
Instructor: Mana

This course focuses on the day-to-day practice of religious traditions. Included are the expression of religious experiences through art, music, and scripture; transmission of these religious expressions through ritual, worship and mystical/ecstatic practices; and the construction and maintenance of different types of religious authority and communal identities. **Note**: Students who have received credit for RELI 211 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 214/4 - A (3 credits) Calogero W.F. 1015-1130
RELIGIONS OF THE WEST
Instructor: Andrew Renahan MB 1.210

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that arose in Western Asia, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course examines contemporary forms of religious life in those parts of the world where these traditions have spread, as well as indigenous religions. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these various traditions. **Note**: Students who have received credit for RELI 213 or RELZ 214 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 215/2 – A (3 credits) FG C070 W.F. 1145-1300
RELIGIONS OF ASIA
Instructor: Shutal Alex

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that have arisen in and spread throughout Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and the religions of China and Japan. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these traditions. **Note**: Students who have received credit for RELI 213 or RELZ 215 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 215/4 – A (3 credits) H 820 ~~M.W. 1145-1300~~ T, 18[00]–20:15
RELIGIONS OF ASIA
Instructor: Shirel Marie-Paule

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that have arisen in and spread throughout Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and the religions of China and Japan. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these traditions. **Note**: Students who have received credit for RELI 213 or RELZ 215 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 216/2 – Onl EC (3 credits) and **RELI 216/4 – Onl EC** (3 credits)
ENCOUNTERING WORLD RELIGIONS
Instructor:

This course serves as an introduction to some of the religions of today's world, and explores several contemporary contexts where people of diverse religious backgrounds come into contact with one another. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 298C or RELZ 216 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 220/2- A (3 credits) Minghui T.J. 1015-1130
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM
Instructor: Ira Robinson GN – M100 ✓

This course will examine the history of Jews and of Judaism from ancient times until the present. It will emphasize the continuities, changes and interrelationships with respect to Jewish social, religious and intellectual life through the ages. It will also carefully examine the varieties of belief and practice in contemporary Jewish life. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 222 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 223/4 - AA (3 credits) H 411 Bruce M.1800-2015
INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: Shaun H-411

This course provides an introduction to key developments and enduring structures in the historical evolution of Christianity. It examines the variety of expressions of faith that are embodied by the Eastern churches (e.g. Greek and Russian Orthodox, Syrian) and the Western (e.g. Roman Catholic, Protestant), and traces the ways in which institutions, symbols, and rituals have in the past and continue today to carry forward the Christian tradition as a world religion in a variety of cultural contexts.

RELI 224/4 – A (3 credits) ~~GN – M100~~ M.W.0845-1000
INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM
Instructor: Dragos ~~Est~~ MB S2.210 Linh Poonya

This course explores the religious tradition of Islam through the beliefs and practices of the vast number of Muslims scattered throughout the world — in the Middle East, Indonesia, India and Pakistan, North America, and other places. It examines the scriptures and common rituals or "pillars" of the religion, as well as expressions of life and culture in the past and present such as the law (shariah), the Islamic arts, and the mystical orders. The course also provides a historical framework of the classical period of Islam up to the Abbasid empire (eighth century). **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 313 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 225/2 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1315-1430
INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM
Instructor:

This course surveys Hinduism in its diverse history, sects, schools of thought, sacred texts, spiritual practices, and contemporary interpretations. We will focus on several prominent dimensions of the tradition, including the Hindu temple, mysticism and metaphysics in the Upanisads, karma and rebirth, dharma (religious duty and the cosmic/social order), moksha (liberation), gender and caste, devotional traditions, and narrative literatures. **Note**: Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 226/2 – A (3 credits) T.J.1445-1600
INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM
Instructor:

This course introduces students to the diversity of forms of Buddhism that have emerged in history and are practiced today. It examines those aspects that are shared in common by Buddhists all over the world, including reverence for the Buddha, support of the monastic order, and adherence to the Buddha's teachings. The course explores the ways in which these ideals and beliefs are expressed through such Buddhist practices as worship, study, pilgrimage, and meditation. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 350 or 364 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 233/2 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1445-1600
INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN AND RELIGION
Instructor:

This introduction to the particular problems and issues in the study of women and religion uses case studies from various religious traditions. The course presents a survey of the different levels of participation, the complex ritual activities, and the intriguing divine imagery associated with women that are found in many religious traditions. Questions pertaining to the contemporary feminist discourse on such topics as witchcraft, matriarchy, and goddess religions are also explored.

RELI 300/2 - A (3 credits) T.J.1315-1430
CULTS AND RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY IN NORTH AMERICA
Instructor:

This course takes a sociological and historical approach towards understanding new religious movements (NRMs), popularly known as "cults". The course examines the reasons for their controversial status in society, and undertakes a survey of the beliefs, rituals, leadership, membership, recruitment strategies, and social organization of a number of specific NRMs. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number or RELI 217 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 301/2 – A (3 credits) M.W.1015-1130
BIBLICAL STUDIESI: HEBREW BIBLE
Instructor: Naftali Cohn

An introduction to the methods and results of biblical scholarship with regard to the history, culture, and religion of ancient Israel. Particular attention is given to the major religious affirmations and theological concepts of the Hebrew Bible that have become central in the subsequent development of Judaism

RELI 310/2 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1445-1600
SELF AND OTHER: EXPLORING VALUE CHOICES IN PERSONAL & INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course considers ethical issues arising in the context of personal and interpersonal relations. In particular, this course intends to explore the meaning, purpose, and function of ethics and ethical thought at the level of individual existence. Toward that end, the course endeavours to comprehend the ethical in its broadest sense as a framework of meaning that creatively attempts to order the personal life in relation to the course of its actualization; in relation to significant Others; in relation to the body, gender and sexuality; and in relation to religion. These basic themes and issues are variously considered in the course readings, which introduce the student to a number of alternative, sometimes contrasting ways of being-in-the-world. In this fashion, the plurarality, plasticity, and complexity of the personal life come to the fore in relation to corresponding forms of ethical thought and reflection. **Note**: Students who have received credit RELZ 310 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 312/4 – A (3 credits) W.F. 1145-1300
JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD
Instructor:

This course considers ethical issues arising in the context of social, legal, and political relations. These issues are discussed in relation to both traditional and contemporary moral perspectives, both religious and non-religious. Topics covered typically include discussions of social and economic inequality, welfare, poverty, just punishment, business ethics, public ethics, economic development, and sustainable development. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 332 or RELZ 312 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 315/2 - AA (3 credits) T. 1800-2015
MUSLIM CULTURES IN SOUTHERN ASIA
Instructor: Richard Foltz

About one-third of the world's Muslims live in India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh, making Southern Asia the world region with the largest proportion of Muslims. Yet many aspects of Muslim belief and practice in these countries have a distinctively South Asian flavour and in some cases derive from regional cultural traditions. This course looks at the history of Muslim presence in Southern Asia, including its extensive political and cultural impact from the seventh century to the present, and investigates the complexities of communal identity over the course of that history. The role of Sufism and Muslim contributions to South Asian literature, art, architecture, and music are also explored.

RELI 317/4 - A (3 credits) FG B055 M.W. 1145-1300
SUFISM 33/50
Instructor: Jose

The course explores the emergence and development of Islamic mysticism beginning with pious individuals in the eighth century and coalescing into institutional forms by the tenth. Attention is given to the teachings of key mystical figures, the Sufi orders, and the social role of Sufism. Sufi poetry, music, and other forms of devotion and practice are studied in the contexts of diverse Muslim societies over the past 1,000 years up to the present. **Note**: Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 379 number may not may not take this course for credit.

50 **RELI 321/2 –AA** (3 credits) H-1011 ✓ M. 1800-2015
MYSTICS, HERETICS AND REFORMERS
✓ Instructor: Josee

This second course of the sequence on Christianity, historically considered, focuses on the period from 1300 to 1650 and examines the many groupings for alternatives to the hierarchical synthesis proposed by great minds and leading authorities. It concludes with a study of the new orthodoxies established by Protestant reformers (Luther and Calvin) and by the Council of Trent in the sixteenth century. **Note**: Students who have received credit for RELI 304 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 328/4 – A (3 credits) H-565 T.J.1315-1430
MODERN JUDAISM 34/55
Instructor: Andrea Gondos

This course surveys the major historical events, sociological and political forces, and intellectual currents which shaped Judaism in the modern period as well as the ways that Jewish communities responded to these forces. Among the topics explored are Emancipation, forms of religious adjustment, anti-semitism, the experience of Jewish communities in Russia and North America, the Holocaust, and Zionism and the state of Israel.

RELI 331/4 – A (3 credits) H-620 T.J. 1145-1300
LITERATURE AND THE HOLOCAUST
(xlisted ENGL 398X) Pascale
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

Religious, historical, literary, and political contexts have been applied to come to terms with the events of the Holocaust. All of these are relevant as students read important and provocative novels dealing with such issues as ethics, the relationship between art and history, the use of humour and popular cultural forms, as well as the way that storytelling helps direct our understanding of events that are often said to be incomprehensible. The wider impact of fiction dealing with the Holocaust on the popular media, including film, CD-ROMs, video, and news reporting, is also considered **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 332/2 – A (3 credits) H – 501 T.J. 1145-1300
CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE
(xlisted ENGL 398Z)
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

This course explores the Jewish voice in Canadian literature which can be seen to be the first opening toward a multicultural tradition in this country. Writers such as A.M. Klein, Mordecai Richler, Henry Kreisel, and Leonard Cohen created an English-language tradition of Jewish writing that is varied, provocative, and lively. Students look at novels, short stories, some poetry, memoir, and criticism. Students also consider non-Jewish authors, such as Gwethalyn Graham and Mavis Gallant, who were among the first to write about Jewish characters for an English-speaking Canadian audience. This course allows students to consider issues related to Canadian identity and culture, ethnic studies, and multiculturalism alongside literary questions. **Note**: Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 335 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 339/2 – A (3 credits) H-633 T.J. 1445-1600
IMPACT OF THE HOLOCAUST ON RELIGIOUS THOUGHT
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim Esti

This course examines the ramifications of the Holocaust in Jewish and Christian thought. Issues discussed include the problem of evil; suffering; the election of Israel; God's relation to the course of human events. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 358 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 343/2 – A (3 credits) X614W (with permission) T.J.1315-1430
YOGA IN HISTORY, THOUGHT AND PRACTICE
Instructor: Shaman Hatley H-431 BJ

This course examines the history, philosophies, and practices of Yoga in their religious and cultural contexts. In the modern west, Yoga has become popular as a secular form of exercise. However, as this course explores, the diverse Yoga traditions of India have also involved sophisticated analyses of the mind and systems of meditation. Intrinsic to no single religion, Yoga has had roles in most South Asian traditions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sufism or Islamic mysticism. The course shall survey this rich history, and the various forms of meditative and physical discipline Yoga has entailed. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 344/4 - A (3 credits) ~~H-537~~ H 544 ~~T.J.1445-1600~~
HINDU MYTH AND NARRATIVE 40/40 Th. 18:00 – 20:15
Instructor: Shaman Hatley

This course approaches Hinduism through its narrative literature, especially the great epics (the *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*) and mythological texts (*Puranas* — the "Ancient Books"). Through stories of gods, devotees, villains, and heroes, the course explores the development of significant themes in the Hindu tradition, from ethics and philosophy to asceticism and devotion. An important focus of the course is the enduring cultural significance of myth and the epics, as retold through the ages in a variety of languages, cultural contexts, and media, including classical and vernacular texts, the oral tradition, drama, dance, and cinema.

H-540

RELI 346/4 - A (3 credits) M.W.1445-1600
GANDHI, COLONIALISM AND BEYOND
Instructor: Shital 27/40

This course concerns Hindu traditions in the modern world, beginning with the period of colonial British rule in South Asia. Students examine the writings and historical contexts of influential Hindu reformers, intellectuals, and activists, including Ram Mohun Roy, Dayananda Sarasvati, Swamy Vivekananda, the Tagores, V.D. Savarkar, and especially Mahatma Gandhi. Issues of focus include the history of the modern idea of Hinduism, responses to European thought and institutions (including Christianity), Hindu understandings of modernity, social change and reform, religious nationalism, contemporary gurus and their transnational movements, and Hinduism in the diaspora. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 351 may not take this course for credit.

H-544

RELI 350/4 - A (3 credits) M.W.1015-1130
THERAVADA BUDDHISM
Instructor: Marc des Jardins 29/40

This course examines the early history, doctrine, institutions, and practices of Buddhism in India, and follows the development of Theravada Buddhism in the countries of Southeast Asia up to the present day. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 314 may not take this course for credit.

H-459

RELI 355/4 – A (3 credits) T.J.1415-1600
RELIGION AND VIOLENCE
Instructor: Marc Lalonde Michelle

It is often said that we live in a violent world but that religion represents the search for peace, love, and understanding. In many instances this is indeed the case and we will be concerned to explore its inspiration. Yet considered historically, it is not unusual for religion to be a central factor in the motivation and expression of violence. What, then, is the nature and character of the relationship between religion and violence? The purpose of this course is to investigate this question on a number of different levels. It will examine the meaning of violence in its multiple forms (as physical, psychological, moral, ideological, etc.) at both the individual and social levels of existence. Within that framework, the course will compare and contrast various religious traditions in the course of their historical development as they relate to the theme and reality of violence. By examining their sacred writings, theologies, rituals and communal actions, this course will chart the diverse contributions of religious life and thought to both the perpetuation and resistance to human violence.

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RELI 360/2 - A (3 credits) MB S2.401 M.W.1015-1130
RELIGIONS OF CHINA
Instructor: Marc des Jardins
This course concentrates on the historical development of Chinese religions from the earliest periods of Chinese civilization to contemporary times. It investigates the relationships among the classical religious traditions as portrayed through scriptures, commentaries, and rituals. Focus is placed on the unfolding of the five great religious currents of China: the classical imperial cults, Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, and popular cults. **Note**: Students who have received credit for RELI 349 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 362/2 - AA (3 credits) W.1800-2015
RELIGIONS OF TIBET
Instructor: Marc des Jardins

This course examines the "nameless" popular religions of Tibet, including mountain cults, shamanism, spirit possession and a variety of manifestations of popular religion. The relationships between dogma, lineages, philosophical enquiries, ritual and ascetic practices are investigated. The goal of this course is to familiarize the student with current issues in Tibetan and Buddhist studies and foster understanding of Tibetan religion in Tibet, China and the rest of the world.

RELI 363/2 - A (3 credits) T.J.1145-1300
JAINISM
Instructor: Leslie Orr

This course provides an introduction to the religious culture of the Jain community. The early history of the Jain tradition in India is explored through a consideration of the life stories of the great teachers of the tradition, of the classical systems of Jain philosophy, cosmology and ethics, and of the rich traditions of Jain narrative literature and art. Contemporary Jainism, including the religious practices of monks, nuns, laymen, and laywomen, and the contemporary relevance of Jainism's central precept of universal non-violence (ahimsa) are also studied. **Note**: Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit

RELI 376/4 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1445-1600
PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

The discipline of Psychology of Religion can usually be described in terms of two streams. The first is experimental and empirical and the second "humanistic", philosophical and theoretical. This class will focus on the second stream. It will seek insights from the convergence of the disciplines of psychology and religious studies in addressing such questions as: What does it mean to be religious? What is the role of religion in individual development? What is the place of relationships to others in religious life? How is authenticity characterized? How are gender differences treated in the psychology of religion? We will explore some of the classical psychological theories of religion, those developed by James, Freud, Erikson, and Jung, as well as more recent developments by post-modern and feminist theorists.

RELI 378/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 0845-1000
DEATH AND DYING
Instructor:
This course provides a comparative perspective on the variety of conceptions and practices related to death and dying that are found in different world religions. In addition, the course considers how people in contemporary North American society utilise traditional religious concepts and rituals, scientific understandings and medical procedures, or innovative combinations of ideas and practices to cope with, and make sense of, the problem of death. Lectures, discussions and some small group work will constitute the major teaching methods. Guest lecturers will be invited. Students should complete the course with some general understanding of, and critical appreciation for, the ways in which different religious traditions explain death and its attendant issues, and how these might assist individuals in coping with their own death or that of others.

RELI 380/4 A Religion & Sexuality M. W. 11:45-13:00
H 407

H-501

50 **RELI 382/2 – A** (3 credits) T.J.1445-1600
WOMEN AND RELIGION: CHRISTIANITY
✓ Instructor: Hillary Kaell

The focus of the course is the role of women and the conflicting patterns of gender construction in the history of Christianity. Through a critical use of primary and secondary sources, both visual and textual, the course explores the sources of women's power and subordination in order to illuminate the relationship between gender and the Christian tradition.

H-427

40 **RELI 383/2 – AA** (3 credits) W.1800-2015
WOMEN AND RELIGION: ISLAM
✓ Instructor: Lynda Clarke

Ali

This course explores past and present debates among Muslims about the ideal status of women in Islam. The historical and legal background — the material of the debate — is examined first. The class then considers how a variety of discourses, ranging from conservative to Muslim-feminist, treat and manipulate this material.

RELI 385/4 – A (3 credits) MB S2.105 T.J.1315-1430
WOMEN AND RELIGION: BUDDHISM
Instructor: Shital 27/30

This course explores the situation, activities, and experiences of women within Buddhism. Using an historical approach, the course examines the circumstances of women in early Buddhism, and traces subsequent developments in India, Tibet, Southeast Asia, the Far East, and the West, up to the present day.

RELI 386/4 - AA (3 credits) H-435 W.1800-2015
WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC AND RELIGION
Instructor: Mana Ildi & Gmm

This course approaches the study of magic, witchcraft, and religion from a variety of perspectives. Taking examples from indigenous cultures, the ancient world, medieval Europe, the early modern period and contemporary movements, the practices and rituals that have been labeled magic or witchcraft are examined, along with the responses to them. The course explores how magicians and witches view themselves, how different cultures relate to them, and how magic, witchcraft, and religion merge and diverge. **Note**: Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

50 **RELI 384/2 - AA** (3 credits) ~~FA-C070~~ H 539 T.1800-2015
WOMEN AND RELIGION: HINDUISM
✓ Instructor: Leslie Orr Manon

This course examines the roles and activities of Hindu women. Issues to be considered include the construction in history of models for the "Hindu woman" and the ways in which such models have shaped Hindu women's lives and experience, the religious activities of Hindu women, the contemporary concerns. The relation between abstract Hindu conceptions of "the feminine" — as a force to be revered, regulated, or repressed — and the actual circumstances and activities of Hindu women, both in the present and in the past, is discussed.

RELI 394/3 - AA (3 credits) J.1800-2015
HISTORY OF SATAN:EVIL PERSONIFIED IN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

Adversary, Tempter, Deceiver, Fallen Angel, Evil Incarnate, King of Hell, Anti-Hero. Portrayals of Satan reflect changing ideas about the nature of the universe and our place within it. This course investigates i) the origins and early notions of Satan in the Bible and extra-biblical texts, and ii) the development and significance of the figure in religious and secular literature and modern popular culture. Topics for discussion include evil, hell, the Antichrist, and the end of the world. **Note**: Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 or RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 398A/2 –A (3 credits) M.W.1315-1430
THE BIBLE AND SEXUALITY
(Selected Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Carly Daniel-Hughes

What does the Bible say about human sexuality? Together we will consider biblical stories and myths, prophecies and moral exhortations in order to illuminate the wide-variety of perspectives on sexuality within these ancient texts. We will be interested primarily in the ancient contexts in which these stories were composed. Of concern to us, however, will also be how Christians (and to a lesser extent Jews) have read these texts in light of changing notions of sexuality. Considering marriage, celibacy, gendered and sexual identities, same-sex relationships, human reproduction, abortion and birth control, masturbation, and desire, we will ultimately reflect upon how the Bible informed, and continues to inform, the various Christian (and Jewish) views on these issues.

RELI 398C/4 –A (3 credits) T.J. 1015-1130
STORIES IN JUDAISM
(Selected Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Naftali Cohn

Stories can entertain, instill morals, or express fundamental truths. In this course we will read stories from the entire scope of Jewish history – from the Bible to modern Jewish film and fiction. Each of these stories will reveal something about the cultures from which they emerged – their fantasies about themselves and about others; about humans, not-so-humans, and God; about life and death and everything in between. Taken together, these stories tell the story of Judaism, in all its inexhaustible variety and colour.

RELI 398G/2 – A (3 credits) T.J.1145-1300
ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION
(Selected Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Hillary Kaell
The earliest anthropologists, writing first from armchairs and then from the field, theorized the role of religious belief. The increasingly sophisticated portraits of religion produced by cultural anthropologists have had a major impact in the broader academic study of religion. This course is meant to introduce students to debates and themes that have coloured the anthropology of religion over the last century. We will cover some classic anthropological texts but focus mainly on contemporary issues (e.g. self-reflexivity, power/agency, materiality and consumption, post-colonialization, post modernity/secularity, communitas). Students will be graded on fieldwork assignments, class discussion and examinations.

RELI 398P/4 – A (3 credits) H-403 M.W.1315-1430
WOMEN IN ISRAEL
(Selected Topics in Religion) Annie
Instructor: Norma Joseph

Women in Israel will explore the world of women's experience in the development of Israeli society. It will chart the history and social planning, the politics and religious authority all of which contended in a democratic platform that shouted for equality but could not deliver it.

RELI 398Q/4 – A (3 credits) H-611 W.1315-1530
PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION 25/25
(Selected Topics in Religion)
(xlisted PHIL 398C)
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

This course introduces students to contemporary discussions and research in the field of Philosophy of Religion. It begins with a treatment of the origin and context of Philosophy of Religion in the West, focusing on the acknowledged "founders," David Hume, Immanuel Kant, and G.W.F. Hegel. It then examines classical and contemporary themes, from early twentieth century Positivism through to the current, twenty-first century scene. In terms of the latter, it explores issues and positions that derive from the impact of Philosophy of Language, Feminist Philosophy, and Comparative Philosophy of Religion. Among other concerns, we will come to see in what ways Feminist Philosophy and Comparative Philosophy of Religion in particular challenge the very nature, parameters, and traditional questions of Philosophy of Religion as a whole.

The readings will include primary material, i.e. selections from larger works and essays, from philosophers reflecting the various developments in the Philosophy of Religion.

RELI 398B/4 – A (3 credits) ~~FC B080~~ T.J.1315-1430
NORTH AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY
(Selected Topics in Religion) H-523
Instructor: Hillary Kaell

Polls consistently show that the United States is the most religious country in the developed world. What accounts for this and how has religion been conceived and practiced? This course introduces students to the history of Christianity in the U.S. from the 1630s to the present, with an emphasis on post- 1865. It pays particular attention to key historical moments and movements, including Puritanism, revivals and awakenings, missions, abolition and slavery, fundamentalism, anti-Communism and Pentecostalism. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 398B Puritans-Palin: Christianity in North America may not take this course for credit.

1315-1430

RELI 398V/4 – A (3 credits) H-401 M.W.~~1145-1300~~
ISLAMIC ART: THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD
(Selected Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Jose 14/50

This course traces the historical development of art and architecture in the Islamic world, from the formative period of Islam, in the seventh and eighth centuries C.E., to the modern era. After studying the basic components of Islamic visual culture, topics

examined include the construction and social meaning of religious space; the city as epicentre of culture and empire; secular building types; the garden; the use of geometry and ornament; the decorative object and its courtly consumption; the primacy of the written word; popular art; and painting, photography, and the representation of the human form. In approaching this rich legacy, the course draws widely on materials from across the Islamic world.

RELI 407H/4 – A (3 credits) R103 697L T. 1600-1815
SPECIAL SUBJECT: JUDAISM IN CANADA
Prerequisite: Permission of the department
Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will examine the diversity of interpretation and practice of Judaism in Canada from the beginnings of the Canadian Jewish community in the eighteenth century to the present. It will explore the changing roles of religious leadership and synagogues within Canadian Jewry. It will do so by paying attention to developments of Judaic expression in the modern era, as well as by a comparative analysis of the development of Judaism in England and in the United States, as well as understanding major trends in the development of religion in North America in general.

RELI 409/2– A (3 credits) B H613 M.W.1445-1600
80 METHODOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION
Instructor: Marc Lalonde
Prerequisite: Permission of the department H-623 MB S2.455

This class explores the conceptual and practical foundations that have established the discipline and study of religion as it has developed over the last century or so. At the conceptual level we will be concerned to enquire: how have scholars gone about the study of religion? What sorts of approaches and methods have they relied on? What are the suppositions of these approaches and methods? What kinds of languages and philosophies have been used to explain such scholarly efforts? We will also attend to the various interests that have inevitably guided such research. What are these interests? What are their sources and inspiration? How are they related to wider social, cultural, and historical realities? Thus ours will be a critical examination of religious studies as we endeavour to understand, analyze, and situate the component parts that make up the method and study of religion today. However, we will also be concerned to put these critiques into practice. Toward that end, a portion of this course will be devoted to a guided fieldwork project.

20 **RELI 412/2 - AA** (3 credits) R103 J. 1800-2015
(cross-listed with RELI 620D)
RELIGIONS OF IRAN
Prerequisite: Permission of the department
Instructor: Richard Foltz

Iran is one of the major birthplaces of world religions, including Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and the Baha'I faith, as well as numerous minor sects. Iranian culture has also played a major role in informing and transforming Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam. This course covers the long history of Iranian civilization in terms of the religious life of Iranians and the many other peoples who have been affected and influenced by Iranian society from the Mediterranean world to South and East Asia. *This*

is a seminar-format course in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 416A/4 - AA (3 credits) J. 1830-2045
(cross-listed with RELI 613R) FA 202
MUSLIM FICTION ENGL 4982
Prerequisite: Permission of the department
Instructor: Richard Foltz

Fiction, especially the novel, originated as a Western literary form but by the 20th century became adopted in cultures throughout the world. Muslim writers have increasingly used fiction as a form of literary expression, injecting a wide range of cultural adaptations and making it their own. This course explores this trend by looking at works selected from diverse contexts throughout the Muslim world. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498B/4 – AA (3 credits) ~~W.2030-2245~~
(cross-listed with RELI 614X) R103 W. 18.30-20.45
SEMINAR ON KRISHNA
Prerequisite: Permission of the department
Instructor: Shaman Hatley

This course explores the deity Krishna in Hindu history, myth, and theology. A sacred figure of antiquity and complex symbolism, Krishna's diverse representations – as playful child, erotic cowherd, heroic warrior, clever king, *avatara*, and cosmic lord – have been central to Hindu religious and cultural life. The course will examine representations of Krishna in myth and narrative, medieval devotional literatures, Vaishnava theologies, the traditional arts, and new media. We will also explore some of the ways in which modern Hindus have engaged with the legacy of Krishna devotion. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498D/4 – A (3 credits) FA 202 M.1600-1815
(cross-listed with RELI 616Z)
THE BÖN RELIGION OF TIBET: INDIGENOUS CULTS AND RELIGION OF TIBET
Prerequisite: Permission of the department
Instructor: Marc des Jardins

The Bön religion is construed by most Tibetans as being the original religious system of belief predating the introduction of Buddhism in the 7th century. Although being the majority religion in that distant past, today Bonpos (followers of Bön) are now a minority. Little is known about Bön since its study has been overshadowed by Buddhist studies. This course will be a first in North America and it will attempt to introduce students to this ancient religious system. Some of the following aspects will be to examine: Tibetan Empire (7-9th c.) religions; Bön religious histories; contemporary Bön, its sacred literature, pantheon, practices, training, lineages and communities.
This is a seminar-format course in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating

RELI 498F/4 - AA (3 credits) FA-202 T. 1830-2045
(cross-listed with RELI 636A/4 AA)
RELIGION AND LITERATURE ENGL 498F/4
Instructor: Norman Ravvin
Prerequisite: Permission of the department

What are the strengths of literary works in understanding religious tradition? In what way can literary texts stand as revisions or re-interpretations of religious texts and belief? This course will apply these questions with regard to a number of religious traditions. Readings will include canonical religious, literary and critical texts. We will consider the way that certain provocative books have created social and political unrest, as well as examining the way that certain thinkers help us understand literary undertakings as expressions of religious modes of thought and creativity. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498K/2 – A (3 credits) R103 T.1600-1815
(cross-listed with RELI 698M and ENGL 498C)
WRITING YOURSELF INTO HISTORY: AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND JEWISH IDENTITY
Instructor: Norman Ravvin
Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This course will approach autobiography from a creative and scholarly standpoint. We will explore the genre, from the particular position of Jewish writing and culture. But students will have the opportunity, as part of their written work, to write their own autobiographical diary or memoir. This will allow us to approach things historically, generically as well as personally. The course meetings will include conventional lectures as well as some in-class discussion of students' own writing. Students of Jewish history, literature, creative writing and cultural studies will find their backgrounds intersect with the course's approach. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498M/4– A (3 credits) R103 J. 1600-1815
(cross-listed with RELI 670H)
THE TALMUD
Instructor: Naftali Cohn
Prerequisite: Permission of the department

The Talmud has been censored, burned, and maligned by outsiders at the same time as it has been revered by Jews for the past two millennia as one of the central texts of Judaism and Jewish tradition. Through a close reading of selected passages from the Mishnah, the Babylonian Talmud, and the Jerusalem Talmud, as well as a survey of current debates in the scholarship, we will set out the Talmud's key components and methodologies and situate the Talmud in its ancient cultural context. By actively engaging these ancient texts, we will attempt to uncover what has given and continues to give the Talmud so much power to inspire. *This course is a seminar format one, in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating*

CANCELLED

RELI 498U/4– A (3 credits) R103 M. 1600-1815
(cross-listed with RELI 620C)
THE AVESTA → AVESTA IN HIST RELIGION
Instructor: Mango
Prerequisite: Permission of the department

The Avesta is the sacred text of Zoroastrianism, one of the world's oldest surviving religious traditions practiced in Iran, India, and throughout the global diaspora. Consisting of material dating back as early as the second millennium BCE, the Avesta sheds light on the origins of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. Readings will be in translation, accompanied by an introduction to the Avestan language which is the oldest attested Iranian language and very close to Vedic Sanskrit.

Department of Religion - Timetable Fall 2012

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
0845-1000		210		210	
10:15-11:30	301 360	220	301 209 360	220	209
11:45-13:00		332 363 398G	215	332 363 398G	215
13:15-14:30	225 398A	343 300	225 398A	343 300	
14:45-16:00	233 409	339 226 310 382	233 409	339 226 310 382	
16:15-17:30		498K/698M (1600-1815) 498Y/637N (1600-1815)			
18:00-20:15	321	315 384/619V	362 383	394 412/620D	

Department of Religion - Timetable Winter 2013

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
0845-1000	224	378	224	378	
10:15-11:30	350	398C	214 350	398C	214
11:45-13:00	215 317	331	215 312 317	331	312
13:15-14:30	398P 398V	328 385 398T	398Q 398P 398V	328 385 398T	
14:45-16:00	346	344 376 355	346	344 376 355	
16:15-17:30	498U/620C 498D/616Z	407H/697L		498M/670H	
18:00-20:15	223	498F/636A	386	416A/613Q	